REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the previous amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10 and 12 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 2, 5, 8 and 11 are cancelled and claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10 and 12 are amended. The subject matter of cancelled claims 2, 5, 8 and 11 have been incorporated into independent claims 1, 4, 7 and 10 respectively.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,991,515 to Fall et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1 and 7 recite, in combination with other claimed features, setting an attribute associated with the compression mode for the overlap area according to an inclusive relationship between the image areas that overlap each other when all of the overlap area between two of the image areas is included within a third image area and newly setting an attribute associated with the compression mode for the overlap area according to the priorities of the respective attributes of the image areas that overlap each other and the positional relationship between the overlap area and each of the image areas that overlap each other when all of the overlap area between two image areas is not included within another image area.

Independent claims 4 and 10 recite, in combination with other claimed features, setting an attribute for each of extracted overlapping image areas according to an inclusive relationship between the image areas that overlap each other when all of the extracted overlapping image area between two of the image areas is included within a third image area and newly setting an attribute for the extracted overlapping image area according to the respective attributes of the image

areas that overlap each other when all of the extracted overlapping image area between two image areas is not included within another image area.

Fig. 4d of Fall shows a page 110 of data is partitioned into a number of bands 112, which are portions of a page having a predetermined size. Objects which overlap multiple bands are divided into multiple objects that each fit in one band and collector. Fig. 4f shows a diagrammatic illustration of band 112 of Fig. 4e being divided into non-intersecting regions. A region covering two or more types of objects is considered to be a "complex" type. The "best" compression algorithms for a region is estimated to produce the best compression ratio for the combination of object types included in the region. Fig. 8b shows an example of an indexing table 205 which can be used to assign the best compression algorithm to each region based on the type of the region and other factors. Algorithms are assigned based on the current compression level and the type of the region. As discussed in the paragraph beginning at line 63 of column 25, constraints determine which compression algorithms are assigned, included overall page characteristics, and time to compress or decompress the region. However, Fall does not disclose the two different attribute setting modes as claimed and which include setting an attribute associated with the compression mode for the overlap area according to an inclusive relationship between the image areas that overlap each other when all of the overlap area between two of the image areas is included within a third image area and newly setting an attribute associated with the compression mode for the overlap area according to the priorities of the respective attributes of the image areas that overlap each other and the positional relationship between the overlap area and each of the image areas that overlap each other when all of the overlap area

between two image areas is not included within another image area as recited in

claims 1 and 7 and similarly recited in claims 4 and 10.

The remaining dependent claims are allowable for at least the reasons

discussed above as well as for the individual features they recite.

Early and favorable action with respect to this application is respectfully

requested.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application, or should the

Examiner believe that a telephone conference with the undersigned would be helpful

in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application, the undersigned

respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC

Date: January 18, 2008   By:

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